**Podcast Assignment -** After listening to the podcast of your choice (from list in Bboard), use this form to complete the assignment. Submit in Bboard in the appropriate area in Assignments.

Your Name:

**Dana Molloy**

The title of the podcast you listened to:

**Think You're An Auditory Or Visual Learner? Scientists Say It's Unlikely**

A brief summary of the topic/content of the podcast:

**In this podcast, they were speaking about how a researcher found that there may not be “different learning styles” like we believe there to be and teachers shouldn’t tailor their lessons to bring up all the different types of learning styles. They also spoke about how “mixing up” lessons and activities might help students learn and retain information better; that our brains are similarly wired and that we really do learn more similarly than different.**

Your reaction: What did you learn? What interested you about this podcast?

**As soon as I saw the title of this podcast, I knew it would be the one I picked. I have always been interested in psychology and after becoming involved in education, I’m fascinated by psychology’s role in educating students in an efficient manner. I do, however, have many problems with what they’re saying in the podcast. First, I would like to see how the researcher conducted the study and what methods he used. Results are often biased and made out to be something they’re not. I also think that the claim that multiple learning styles are bogus is unfair. Everyone, as students can think of lessons they learned that were particularly effective and those that weren’t. I firmly believe that for some people, a lecture based method presents the information in a way that they can absorb and retain it. Personally, I know that this doesn’t work for me. I need something more; and I can guarantee there are many other people who would agree with me. I do agree with the second claim of this podcast—that mixing up the way information is presented and encoded creates better retention. I think these two ideas could quite possibly go hand in hand. Who’s to say that if a lesson contains a lecture component as well as a visual and kinesthetic component, student A is understanding it better during the lecture, student B is understanding it better during the visual component and student C is understanding it best during the kinesthetic portion? We can’t say how the brain is functioning during those times and which is most effective. This is why I’m weary of this researcher’s results. I would like to see the same type of study done within a classroom with students being presented information in different ways; I think this would yield better results as well as more classroom applicable results. There has been a huge push for teachers to embrace different learning styles and many have reported that their students have shown improvement. It must be working somehow!**

**I also had a problem with the fact that they mentioned people’s cognitive strengths within the podcast. They verified that some people are more verbally equipped while others are more artistic and others, still, are more science minded. The problem I have with the claims they made on this topic is the fact that they made it seem like the teachers are guiding lessons to help students who have those separate strengths and enabling them to excel. My question is, at the root of it, isn’t that basically what multiple learning styles is all about? If you read something 15 times and still don’t understand it, do you think that a verbal approach is the most effective way for you to understand the material? Probably not. I’m not saying to go out and listen to an audio book or anything like that but many students have difficulty with the standard lecture and testing methods of teaching. I firmly believe that that works for some, but not for all. Until there is concrete evidence that different learning styles are hoaxes, I think it should definitely still be included in classrooms. The teachers and school are saying that it works, and there’s got to be a reason their using it. If this study was so credible and valid, I think it would change the education system dramatically but meanwhile this is the first little whisper of this claim that we’re hearing. I’ll stick to representing material in different and novel ways to students until someone tells me that it’s hurting my students and not benefiting them; and to be honest, I don’t think I’ll ever see that day.**